

What's New in the MPDC

SEPTEMBER 16, 2002

HEIGHTENED ALERT, NO MAJOR INCIDENTS AS DC OBSERVES 9/11 ANNIVERSARY

DC observed the one-year anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks with the MPDC on heightened alert, but no major incidents to report. In conjunction with the federal government raising the national homeland security advisory from Yellow (Elevated) to Orange (High), the MPDC on Monday elevated its own Emergency Response Level from One to Two. The Department activated its Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC), including the Closed Circuit TV system, which has cameras focused on key installations in downtown DC. Police are also giving special attention to potential targets for terrorism, including synagogues, temples and other institutions during the Jewish high holy days. The MPDC did not recall additional personnel or extend tours of duty, and neighborhood patrols remain fully staffed. Lacking any information about a specific terrorist threat to DC, the MPDC returned to Level One later in the week, although the JOCC and special attentions will remain in effect through Yom Kippur. Chief Ramsey, other MPDC officials and residents participated in a number of ceremonies to remember the victims of 9/11 and to honor the District's first responders.

To learn more about the federal Homeland Security Advisory System, click on:

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020312-5.html

CRIME DROPS SHARPLY IN AUGUST; DOWN 2.4 PERCENT FOR THE YEAR

Reported crime in DC declined sharply in August, contributing to an overall 2.4 percent drop in serious crime through the first eight months of 2002, according to preliminary statistics compiled by the MPDC. In August 2002, a total of 3,379 serious, or "Index," crimes were reported to police, compared with 3,901 offenses reported in August 2001 - a reduction of 13.4 percent. During August, reductions were recorded citywide in sexual assaults, robberies, burglaries, thefts and thefts from autos. Increases occurred in homicides, aggravated assaults, motor vehicle thefts and arson offenses. From January through August 2002, reported crime in DC was down 2.4 percent when compared with the first eight months of 2001, preliminary statistics indicate. To view preliminary monthly totals for the seven police districts and the District as a whole, go to:

Auto theft in DC is up 10 percent this year. To combat the problem, the MPDC launched the "Watch Your Car" program, and radio ads promoting the program are running this month. Learn more and register on-line at:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **"Chatting with the Chief":** Chief Ramsey discusses current issues in the MPDC and takes your phone calls during his monthly appearance on the Daily Drum "Insight" segment on WHUR (96.3 FM): Tues., Sept 17, from 6:40 - 7 pm.
- **IMF/World Bank Meetings:** The annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group will take place at the agencies' downtown DC headquarters on Sept. 28-29. Large-scale protests are also expected in the days leading up to the meetings and over that weekend. As possible street closures and other security precautions are finalized, the MPDC will post this information on its Website and make updates available through the news media.

19 NEW "LATERAL HIRE" OFFICERS SWORN IN

In ceremonies Friday afternoon at the FBI's J. Edgar Hoover Building, Chief Ramsey swore in the 19 newest members of the MPDC – all experienced officers hired through the Department's "lateral entry" program. The 19 new officers come from a variety of federal and local agencies in the DC area and outside the region. For example, Lateral Class 2002-1 includes experienced officers from Durham and Jacksonville (NC), Columbus and Miamisburg (OH), York County (SC) and Puerto Rico State Police. Regionally, officers were recruited from Baltimore, Riverdale, Chevy Chase Village and Cottage City (MD) and Prince Edward County (VA). Various federal and military police agencies are also represented in the class. All of the new officers are being assigned to PSA patrols in DC neighborhoods. Authorized by the DC Council three years ago, the "lateral hire" program allows the MPDC to hire experienced officers from other jurisdictions at salaries that reflect their law enforcement experience. For more information about the program, click on:

Congratulations to the 19 newest members of the MPDC: Jeremy Baldwin, Robert Brzenchek, David Casetta, Garland Copeland Jr., Alfredo Cruz Jr., Michael Eames, Patrick Ecelberger, Keith Green, Perry Hoak, Norman Kenny II, Grant Myers, Cory Oakley, Wayne Pitt, Robert Rodney, Ray Ross II, Elihu Rushdan, Mortel Samuels, Antonio Walbey and William Ward.

mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/polateral.shtm

SEPTEMBER "CHAMPS" OF THE MPDC

Earlier this year, Master Patrol Officer Edward Woodward and Officer Dennis Spalding were on patrol in 7D when they observed two men fighting. After apprehending one man who was beating the other man about the head, the officers learned that the victim of that assault had actually lit a Molotov cocktail and tossed it through an open window into a nearby apartment building. With a fire starting to burn, Officers Woodward and Spalding rushed into the building, waking dozens of residents and evacuating them in the early morning hours, until the Fire Department arrived. In addition, the officers were able to detain the beating victim who had thrown the Molotov cocktail until an agent from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms arrived. The individual was charged with a felony, recently pleaded guilty and is serving a 15-year prison sentence. For their quick-thinking and courage, MPO Woodward and Officer Spalding were awarded the departmental Officer of the Month award, during the September CHAMPS awards ceremony, held at Jury's Washington Hotel. Read more about the heroics of Officers Woodward and Spalding, as well as all of this month's award winners, at:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2002/09.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

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